

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00093 111104Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02  
SAJ-01 /061 W  
-----111112Z 003052 /14

R 111014Z JAN 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3776  
USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0093

PASS USIA/IEU

E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SEDU, PINT, PORS, WB, GW  
SUBJ: BERLIN STUDENT STRIKE ACTIVITIES AT TURNING POINT

REFS: A) 76 USBERLIN 2632; B) 76 USBERLIN 2111; C) 76 USBERLIN A-113  
(JULY 9, 1976); D) 76 USBERLIN A-106

1. SUMMARY: UNIVERSITY SITUATION IN BERLIN REMAINS  
BALANCED BETWEEN RETURN TO RADICALISM OF 60'S AND  
CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT IN AURA OF RELATIVE CALM.  
WHETHER STUDENT STRIKE WILL RESUME JANUARY 13 REMAINS  
UNCERTAIN. BASIC UNIVERSITY SITUATION IS OUTLINED  
BELOW; COMPREHENSIVE MISSION REPORT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.  
END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00093 111104Z

2. BECAUSE OF THEIR EXTREME IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE  
OF BERLIN, USBER HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED CLOSELY DEVELOP-  
MENTS AT WEST BERLIN'S TWO UNIVERSITIES AND NUMEROUS  
TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WHICH PLAY HOST TO A STUDENT BODY  
OF 80,000 PERSONS, MOST OF WHOM ARE FROM THE FRG.  
IN RECENT WEEKS MISSION OFFICERS SPOKE WITH A NUMBER  
OF PROFESSORS, STUDENTS AND JOURNALISTS AS WELL AS

THE KEY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN EDUCATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE FREE UNIVERSITY, STRIKE-RIDDEN IN EARLY DECEMBER (REF A), SEEMED TO BE HEADING BACK TO THE EXCESSES OF THE SIXTIES OR WHETHER THE CALM OF THE PAST TWO YEARS WOULD RETURN IN THE NEW TERM. WE ELICITED ALMOST AS MANY OPINIONS AS PERSONS WE SPOKE TO. OUR CONCLUSION MUST BE HEDGED: IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT MASS STUDENT RADICALISM WILL RETURN IN THIS NEW ERA OF GERMAN UNEMPLOYMENT BUT THE WILLINGNESS OF THE MASS OF FREE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO FOLLOW STRIKE CALLS FOR ANYTHING FROM POLITICAL TO MONEY ISSUES SUGGESTS THE DANGER REMAINS. WE DO BELIEVE THAT BERLIN WILL REMAIN AT THE FOREFRONT OF UNIVERSITY UNREST IN GERMANY FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS; THAT ON THE OTHER HAND BERLIN'S OPINION IS TURNING AGAINST THE "PAMPERED" STUDENTS; AND THAT THE NEW FU PRESIDENT, DR. LAEMMERT, A RESPECTED ACADEMICIAN, IS PURSUING A SENSIBLE POLICY OF REMAINING SYMPATHETIC TO DISCUSSION BUT NOT TO VIOLENT ACTION. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE STUDENT EXCESSES OF BERLIN'S RECENT PAST, THE US IS NO LONGER A TARGET OF ATTACK WHILE A NUMBER OF THE LEFTIST POLITICALLY-INCLINED STUDENTS NOW SEEK TO DISPLAY THEIR OBJECTIVITY BY COMBINING CRITICISM OF FRG CAPITALISM WITH STRONG WORDS ABOUT RESTRICTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL IN THE GDR.

3. RECENT STRIKE ACTIVITY AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY (FU) PEAKED WITH TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00093 111104Z

AND DEMONSTRATIONS DECEMBER 7 AND 8. AT ONE SUCH MEETING ROUGHLY, 2,500 STUDENTS, DOMINATED BY SELF-STYLED INDEPENDENTS, PUT TOGETHER A SHORT BUT DIFFICULT LIST OF DEMANDS DIRECTED AT THE SENAT AS A BASIS FOR SETTLING THE STRIKE. IN THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEBATE ON THE STUDENT SITUATION ON DECEMBER 8, SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND ARTS, LOEFFLER, SPEAKING FOR THE SPD/FDP COALITION SENAT, CATEGORICALLY REJECTED THE STUDENT PACKAGE; SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE STUDENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING ALL ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SEMESTER IF THE STRIKE HAD CONTINUED, AND APPARENTLY UNCERTAIN HOW NEXT TO PROCEED, THE STUDENTS, AT THE DIRECTION OF THEIR STRIKE COMMITTEE (STREIKRAT), VOTED TO SUSPEND THE STRIKE FOR ONE MONTH BEGINNING DECEMBER 13 IN ORDER TO GIVE THE UNIVERSITY ANDN SENAT AUTHORITIES AN OPPORTUNITY

TO ANSWER STUDENT DEMANDS. THE NEW FU PRESIDENT, EBERHARDT LAEMMERT, HAS EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THE STUDENTS' CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR PRESENT AND FUTURE WELL-BEING, AND HAS CALLED UPON BERLIN'S POLITICAL LEADERS TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AN EFFORT TO SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS. AT THE OUTSET OF THE STRIKE IN NOVEMBER, STUDENT DEMANDS WERE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT POLITICAL ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR THE "BERUFSVERBOT" (EMPLOYMENT BAN) AS APPLIED TO LEFTIST ACADEMICS. LATER ON, THE STRIKERS FOCUSED ON "BREAD AND BUTTER" ISSUES SUCH AS STUDENT STIPENDS AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT POSSIBILITIES. CHRISTMAS VACATION, WHICH BROUGHT AN ENFORCED QUIET TO THE CAMPUS FOR TWO WEEKS, ENDED JANUARY 3 AND STUDENTS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO TRICKE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY. WHETHER THE STRIKE WILL BE RESUMED REMAINS A MATTER OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 00093 111104Z

INTENSE SPECULATION. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON SENAT AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION ATTITUDES AND HOW THE STUDENTS, AND THEIR LARGELY ANONYMOUS LEADERS, ASSESS THE REACTION OF POLITICAL AND ACADEMIC LEADERS TO THEIR DEMANDS.

4. A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY SITUATION IN BERLIN FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STRIKES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USBERL00093  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770010-0096  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770161/aaaacbkq.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 8c052fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 USBERLIN 2632, 76 USBERLIN 2111, 76 USBERLIN A-113  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3621406  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BERLIN STUDENT STRIKE ACTIVITIES AT TURNING POINT  
**TAGS:** SEDU, PINT, PORS, WB, GE  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8c052fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009